

From: robmorton
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 8:15am
Subject: MS dependencies

My name is Robert Morton. I am a Senior Computer Support Specialist. I was happy when the US Justice Department decided that Microsoft needed to be pursued as a monopoly. It is clear to anyone that they are a monopoly and use this power to go into other markets. They essentially killed Netscape, and are now focusing on instant messaging. If you happen to use a computer that is not dependant on their operating system, they will hold your company hostage with Office.

MS has shown time and time again that they do not care about the law. Any minor action you take against them will be ignored. Once that happens the entire process will have to start all over again. How many times will the US allow MS to lie in court, submit false evidence, etc. before something is done? Please reconsider the solution. The US has spent a lot of money creating a solid case. The proposed solution will not even slow MS down from repeating their past transgressions.

There are only two solutions that could work. One, break the company up. Since that probably will not fly in the current process, there is one other possibility. Have MS open up the file formats for their applications. This would allow other companies to write compatible versions of all their applications. The file format would have to remain open and changes approved before they can be released. This one change would allow WordPerfect or AppleWorks to legitimately compete with MS Office. Also if MS does not feel there is a market for a product, someone else could fill the gap. For example, MS Project is not made for other platforms any longer. If the file format was open, someone could write an application for UNIX or Mac that would be able to read, edit and save MS Project files. At least this would weaken the company's strangle hold on other platforms.

A concerned citizen,
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